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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
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Thirty-second session
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Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 18 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30 and Corr.1)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed the view that the consideration of the proposed revisions to this programme suffered from the absence of an overall introduction providing an analysis of prevailing and emerging trends guiding the proposed revisions to the plan.

3. A number of delegations expressed the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to the programme was too limited and did not sufficiently reflect the mandates adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and

the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its last session.

4. Several delegations were of the view that substantive reference to Agenda 21 to be considered at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should have been reflected in the revisions to this programme. Other delegations felt that the drought issue should also have been addressed, in particular under subprogramme 3.

5. A number of delegations considered that the subprogramme structure should have been streamlined and that there were too many subprogrammes designated high priority. A number of delegations expressed concern that the social programmes under ECA were not receiving the requisite priority attention.

6. Some delegations considered that the revision should have highlighted the impact on the programmes of heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources by the Commission.

7. While a number of delegations suggested that the process of regional economic integration covered in subprogramme 2 should be approached with caution, bearing in mind the benefits to be derived from a liberalization of trade, other delegations expressed the view that there was no contradiction between economic integration and free trade.

8. Some delegations remained to be convinced that the resources devoted to MULPOCs were productively applied. Other delegations did not share that view.

9. The view was expressed that in a number of instances the proposed revisions should be reformulated and corrected to avoid duplication in the text.

Conclusions and recommendations

[10. The Committee noted that the social programmes in ECA were not receiving sufficient attention and stressed the need for these programmes to be strengthened.]

11. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications and subject to the provisions of paragraph 12 below:

(a) In new paragraph 30.45, at the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added: "The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries will be given special attention in intercountry technical cooperation projects";

(b) In old paragraph 30.46, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 46/156 and 46/212 should be added;

(c) In new paragraph 30.58, in the French version, the word "inefficacité" should be replaced by the word "inadéquation";

(d) Old paragraph 30.60 should be retained;

(e) In new paragraph 30.70, at the beginning of the second sentence, the words "Such strategies will be aimed at examining" should be replaced by the words "Such strategies will be established based upon examination of";

(f) In new paragraph 30.103 (a), the word "multi-country" should be replaced by the word "subregional";

(g) In new paragraph 30.105, the words "and financial" should be added after the word "technical".

12. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to programme 30 in the light of the discussion in the Committee and taking into account the outcome of the Conference of Ministers of ECA and relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, and submit those revisions to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session.